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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO 88220

August 10, 1965

MINE INSPECTION REPORTS
VANADIUM CORPORATION OF AMERICA
MINES ON NAVAJO RESERVATION
APACHE COUNTY, ARIZONA

LEASE NOS.
I-149-Ind-8666
I-149-Ind-8667
I-14-20-0603-6678

by
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
BRANCH OF MINING OPERATIONS
CONSERVATION DIVISION

This report covers the mines in the Cove Area. The mines were inspected on July 29, 1965. Mr. Weaver, mine foreman, accompanied the examiner.

Mesa 1 $\frac{1}{4}$, Lease I-149-Ind-8668

The Mesa 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ mine is operated by C. D. Boothe under a working agreement with the company. On the day of the inspection the mine was not operating and the mine was not inspected. The diesel loader had broken down and the operator was awaiting the parts. At the present time the operation consisted of mining a narrow stringer off the main orebody and prospecting by long holes for more ore. The orebody that Mr. Boothe had been mining has been the best orebody found in the last year in this area.

Mine 1-3/4, Lease 14-20-0603-6678

The company operates this mine. Since the last inspection exploration in several places have found very little ore. Long hole drilling and some mining on narrow lenses is being carried on.

Ventilation appears to be adequate. Ground conditions are good. The incline has been planked with cleats nailed to the plank to aid in going up and down. A new lunch room is being blasted into the cliff face. The old lunch room extended beyond the cliff face and water and mud filled it up during the spring thaw.

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Mesa 2, Mine No. 2, Lease I-149-Ind-8666

This mine is company operated. The work being carried on consist of mining in the floor and on the edge of an old stope previously mined by Kerr McGee. Ventilation appears adequate. Ground control appears adequate.

Mesa 2½, Lease I-149-Ind-8666

Jim Goode operates one of the two openings on this property. He has a operating agreement with the company. Mining consist of removing narrow lenses on the edges of an old stope. Access to the stope was up a hole off the haulageway and by a drift off the haulageway. A ladder poked up into the hole provided access. This ladder was about 6 feet short and a falling hazard was quite evident. The drift was also hazardous because loose rock was hanging in the roof. Roof control in general was poor but could be remedied by barring down. Several stulls were placed with a 2x4 wedge against the roof. Mr. Goode was asked to fix up the ladder, bar down and make the place safe. A discussion was held on the proper installation of stulls and the advantage of headboards but it is doubtful the lesson will be followed in the future. Ventilation was good.

The adjoining mine is operated by Ivan Hancock who has an operating agreement with the company. He is mining small lenses of ore along the walls of the old stopes. Ventilation is good. Roof control is good and housekeeping on the surface and in the mine is good.

Mesa 4½ Mine, Lease I-149-Ind-8666

Mesa 4½ Mine is operated by the company. At this mine the company is driving a drift in hopes of finding ore. Several small lenses of ore were mined. The muck is being loaded into shuttle cars with a slusher mounted on a ramp. Ventilation appeared to be adequate. Air is provided by a fan blowing through vent tube. The mine is very muddy. Housekeeping about the surface is good. Ground conditions appeared good.

Heavy rains in the area have washed out the roads and caved the banks. The company hires 17 Navajo miners and the lessees hire about eight men.

Orig. to: Supt., Navajo Agency
cc: Comm, Office of Ind. Affairs Mining Engineer
: Navajo Tribal Min. Engineer ✓
: Chief, Branch of Mining Operations
: Bureau of Mines, Denver
: Files

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